

## **REMARKS**

### **New Title:**

The title has been amended to more accurately describe the present invention.

### **New Abstract:**

The abstract has been amended for clarity. No new matter has been added.

### **Claim to Priority:**

The first paragraph of the application has been amended to more clearly indicate that the parent application of this continuation application claims the benefit of two provisional applications filed prior to the filing date of the parent application. This continuation application is, of course, also entitled to the benefit of the listed provisional applications.

### **Changes to the Claims:**

In this application, claims 1-19 from the parent application are canceled, and new claims 20-31 have been entered. New claims 20-31 are method claims which include limitations that substantially correspond to the limitations included in allowed claims 1-19 in the parent application. The new claims are supported both by claims 1-19 and by the specification of the parent application. No new matter has been added.

### **Patentability of the New Claims:**

The reasons for allowance in the parent case (hereafter, the "reasons for allowance") are attached hereto as "Exhibit A." The reasons for allowance indicate that the prior art does not disclose "a mixer, for audio conferencing, that will sum a plurality of digitized audio signals based upon the state of speech bits to provide a summed conference signal." Claim 20 in this application includes limitations substantially corresponding to those of allowed claim 19 in the parent application and recites "summing, with said audio conference mixer, digitized audio signals having speech bits indicative of the inclusion of said voice data, thereby providing a summed conference signal" (emphasis added). Claim 25 in this application recites limitations which are similar to those quoted above and which closely correspond to those recited in allowed claim 1 in the parent application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully

contend that claims 20 and 25 in this application are patentable over the prior art for the same reasons as allowed, parent-application claims 19 and 1, respectively.

Claims 21-24 depend from claim 20, claims 26-31 depend from claim 25, and the dependent claims inherit all the limitations of their respective independent claims. Accordingly, claims 21-24 and 26-31 are patentable over the prior art for the same reasons as independent claims 20 and 25, respectively. Therefore, claims 20-31 are patentable over the prior art.

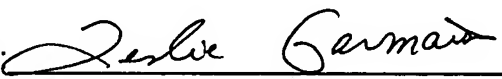
**Conclusion:**

Based on the foregoing, all pending claims are allowable, and Applicants respectfully request that the instant case be passed to issue. Should you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to give the below-listed attorney a call. If additional fees are required, please debit our Deposit Account No. 04-1414.

Respectfully submitted,

DORR, CARSON, SLOAN, BIRNEY & KRAMER, P.C.

Date: 11-24-2003

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Art Unit: 2642

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to disclose a mixer, for audio conferencing, that will sum a plurality of digitized audio signals based upon the state of speech bits to provide a summed conference signal. No obvious combination of references found would teach one having ordinary skill in the art to make and use applicant's apparatus as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C Smith whose telephone number is (703) 308-2488.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Creighton Smith".

**Creighton Smith**  
**Primary Examiner**

Creighton Smith

April 30, 2003